



THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 89, Issue 3 September 13, 1999
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McGill and Royal Bank Make Strange Bedfellows

Arts building used as marketing ploy

BY JON BRICKER

Free t-shirts are not all that's being offered up at campus-wide credit card marketing tables, say students wondering just what Royal Bank's role is at McGill. The card, they say, also comes with a stake in the Canadian banking empire being fingered as a culprit in Canada's student debt crisis.

McGill's own stately Arts building graces the latest piece of plastic being pushed on campus by Royal Bank and Visa, following a recent deal with McGill's Alumni Association. And while McGill and the Alumni Association are singing the praises of the deal which will bring in a cut of the revenues to the school, many are angered over implications for debt-ridden students and McGill's growing ties with Canada's largest bank.

"They want you to go into debt so they can charge you high interest," said Morgan Stewart, Chair of University of Victoria's student society, speaking about the banks' role in the national trend of skyrocketing student debt. "A bank is there to make money."

Stewart called credit cards dangerous for students, made to use them to combat growing expenses, and then forced to pay high interest rates.

He also said that students need to recognize that their school is not working for them when it makes deals with the same banks that are responsible for a flawed student loan program. "Student loans are being moved more and more under banks control," he said.

But McGill justifies the deal as good for students. "In terms of student banking, Royal Bank does lead the way," said Wanda Leah Trineer, Director of McGill's Treasury Department and the go-between for McGill's Royal Bank dealings.

Trineer pointed out that the deal also brings money in for the Alumni Association, offers discount deals with a handful of merchants, and includes a free McGill Visa T-shirt for anyone who signs

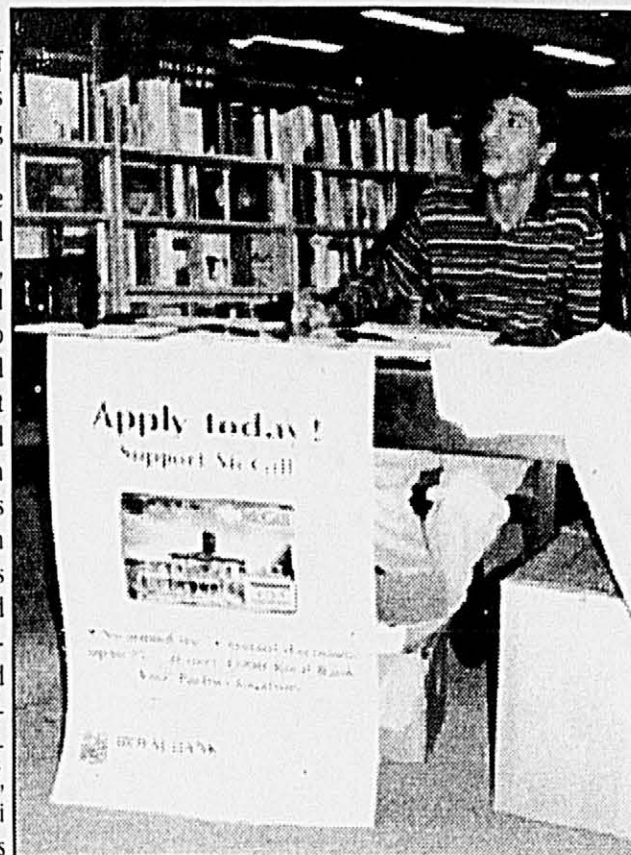
up at one of the campus marketing stations.

The Affinity Card program, which Royal Bank also introduced this year at Acadia and Laurentian universities comes with the Royal's standard 17.5% interest rate, and is being targeted at students, staff, and alumni in mail-outs and a campus marketing campaign.

The deal replaces one with the Bank of Montreal that expired last year. The Alumni Association hopes a more aggressive marketing campaign will mean it brings in more money than the old one that brought in between \$97,000 - \$107,000 a year over the last decade. The new contract doesn't specify what McGill's take will be, but the Association says that some of the money will be directed at students, with at least 50 per cent of the revenue going to the work study program this year.

Trineer also saw the deal as significant in cementing McGill's relationship with Royal Bank and in offering convenience to students, with a campus ATM exclusivity deal recently signed as well.

"The Royal Bank is very interested in McGill as a client," she said. "McGill's principle banker is Royal Bank. It's now advantageous for a student to look at get-



JOHN ORTEG

Campus marketers push McGill Royal Bank Visa and free t-shirt.

ting an account with Royal Bank."

But Stewart sees that as another example of a university pushing banks' fiscal objectives. "They're trying to make money off of students."

He said students should also be worried about McGill's leading decision-making body, the Board of Governors, which includes in its members at large Royal Bank Chairman, John Cleghorn. "Your Board of Governors includes the same person making deals to benefit his bank," Stewart said.

The Royal Bank, Canada's biggest commercial bank reported \$1.4 billion in profit in 1996.

The average debt load for Canadian students, meanwhile is estimated at \$25,000, with one million students and grads nationwide paying off their debts. Stewart and groups like the Canadian Federation of Students have laid part of the blame for the trends on loan programs that are being increasingly managed by banks and not the federal government.

But Stewart also said that campus marketing seems like an inevitable evil. As long as students need quick money and the banks need more customers, marketing campaigns will remain. And if Royal Bank is here to stay, he says, at least students are getting a few bucks in exchange for being slighted by the bank.

"The banks are the wrong direction, but if you have to, at least make as much money as you can off of it," he said.

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Movies in the McGill Ghetto

Film crews disturb residents, bring money to city

BY GEOFF ROLLINS AND LEAH

JACOBSON

Montreal has played host to a slew of crews this summer and one made a particular impression on the residents in McGill's student ghetto recently. Twenty large vans were parked along University Street. Car and pedestrian traffic along Prince Arthur was stopped and redirected. Life in the ghetto was disrupted, and residents were more than a little angered.

"It was really a hassle," complained Hoa, a ghetto resident. "They called delays and traffic problems, and they changed the street signs," he said.

Others were also frustrated with the timing of the shoot two weeks ago - just as hundreds of students were moving in to new houses and apartments. "It was unfair of the people responsible for this not to take into account the position of the city as a whole," said Margaret Bilk.

Bilk was forced to carry her computer, her furniture, and many of her belongings down two city blocks because the film set blocked parking around her building.

But many also saw the importance of such shoots for the city, and for film crew workers in need of work. Some residents even said that they enjoyed the taste of Hollywood north. "It's good for the city. They throw around a lot of money. I do think it's worth it," said one tenant.

"I thought the movie was pretty cool. It was pretty neat to see the police cars with NYC on the side get

towed away filled with bullet holes," said Hoa.

"There are always a few complaints, but everybody makes money also," said police Commanding Officer Charles Rabbat. Rabbat headed the commercial force that super-

hardly seemed evident. "I woke up to gun shots and explosions, there was blood running down the steps," said George, a street person who sleeps in the lobby of the building where the indoor filming was done.

Disruptive or not, the shoot also

"I woke up to gun shots and explosions, there was blood running down the steps."

vised the shoot.

"Filming is very good for the city," he said. "In New York City, they have a whole division of the police working with film companies," he added, explaining that the new Montreal force has been at it for a month.

But for some, it was the policing that made the shoot so hard on the community. "They told you to get out of the street and they made you turn down your music," said a local. "And if you didn't listen to the guys in the orange vests, they would get the cops after you."

Rabbat maintained that his force handled their jobs well and earned few complaints. "They are doing what they are supposed to do as police officers... peacekeeping, maintaining crowds and directing traffic."

For some however, peacekeeping

meant some money for some living in the building at the corner of Prince Arthur and Aylmer. George noted that he was able to help out the crew in exchange for food, while tenants of the building were promised compensation.

The residents have yet to be compensated however, and say they were angered with their landlord as the shoot took longer than planned, they were given little time to review the agreement. Hoa even threatened legal action against the landlord.

The prevailing response was a mixed one, it seemed by the time shooting wrapped up. "There were a lot of people watching the filming who seemed to enjoy the whole process. But it was done at a silly time. It was done at the one time it should not have been done."

Science

Finding the Causes of Childhood Cancer

McGill research team explores links to pesticides

BY OLIVIA LAU

It is common knowledge that cancer is a deadly disease that can strike without prejudice. Little is actually known, however, about the origin of this uncontrolled growth of cells. Recently, McGill researchers were able to piece together a few major components of the childhood cancer puzzle. Led by Dr. Claire Infante-Rivard, a professor specializing in epidemiology and occupational health, a team of researchers completed a novel study which showed that children with a genetic susceptibility to cancer had a higher frequency of developing the disease in particular environments.

The study looked at childhood carcinoma from two sides, analyzing various environment factors while examining the genetic make-up of specific patients. In cooperation with molecular biologists and geneticists at the St. Justine Children's Hospital, Dr. Infante-Rivard was able to link environmental agents and genetic factors as causative agents of this deadly disease. According to Infante-Rivard, "this is the first study of the interaction between the environment and genetics."

In a broad sense, the environmental causes of carcinoma can be seen as chemicals, a person's nutritional intake, and infectious diseases to which a person is exposed. This study examined a subsection of that, particularly household pesticides and parental, occupational, exposure to known carcinogens. Because childhood cancer has its peak at the ages of 3-4 years, the study had to examine both the pregnancy and the infancy. By devising an unbiased and sensitive questionnaire, the scientists were able to construct the environment to

which the fetus and infant was exposed.

The other side of the equation was also placed under the microscope, literally. Molecular biologists and geneticists examined a sub-sample of cases. It had previously been shown that some forms of cancer are hereditary. By

examining the genetic makeup of various patients, researchers were able to characterize the samples according to whether or not they had a variant, which made the cell less able to repair itself and to control its growth. Without this repair mechanism, the cell and its subsequent offspring will become malignant. At this point, the abnormal growth that the body's immune system will not be able to handle occurs.

Comparing the information obtained during patient interviews and the information from the labs, the team of interdisciplinary researchers was able to identify the interaction between the environmental and the genetic factors. Children with a particular genetic makeup are more susceptible to the various carcinogens found in household pesticides.

Dr. Infante-Rivard believes that this study moves researchers one step closer to understanding the mechanism of carcinoma. Infante-Rivard said that "this study showed how exposure [to carcinogens] can be modified by genetic makeup." The paper will be published later this month in the journal *Epidemiology*.



Infante-Rivard

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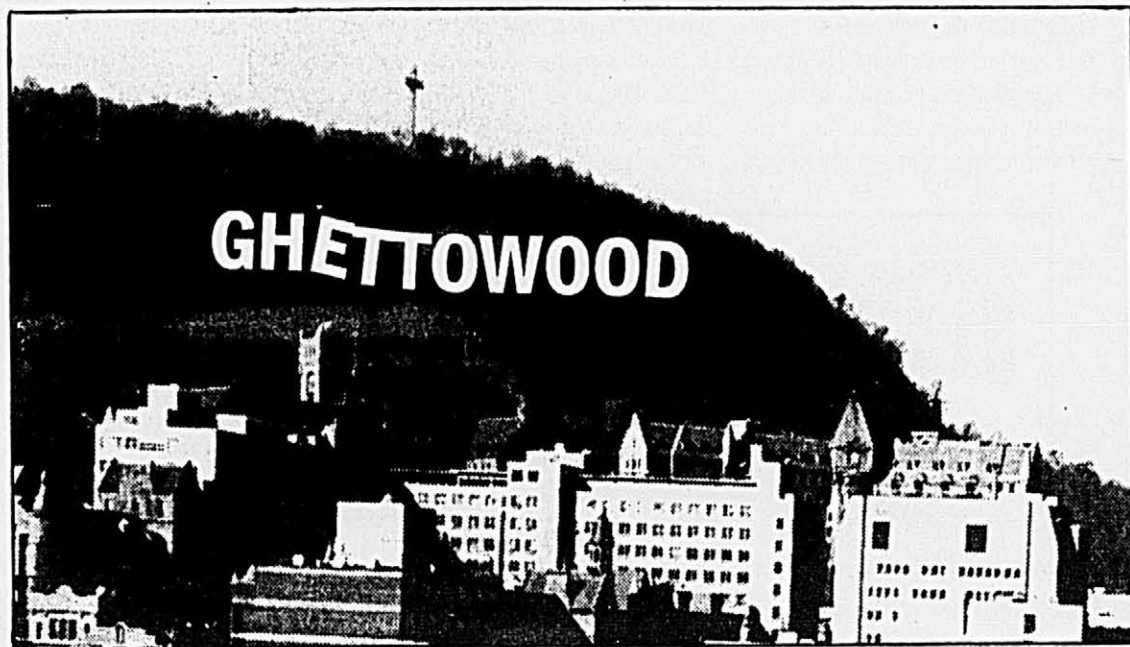
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Science and Society

Departments of Pharmacology & Therapeutics, Anthropology, Mathematics and Statistics, Political Science, Social Studies in Medicine, Philosophy, Sociology, Montreal Neurological Institute, Faculties of Arts and Medicine, take pleasure in announcing that Prof. Steve Fuller, University of Warwick, UK will lecture at McGill University in September 1999.

Steve Fuller

Professor of Sociology, University of Warwick, UK

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Public Lecture

WHAT DOESN'T KILL US MAKES US STRONGER: WHY THE SCIENCE WARS MAY TURN OUT TO BE A GOOD THING AFTER ALL

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Wednesday, September 22, 1999

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5 PM, Council Room, Arts Building, 853 Sherbrooke Street W

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The Governor-General's Husband

John Ralston Saul addresses literacy and democracy at U de M talk

BY CÉLINE HEINBECKER AND JASON

CHOW

Fresh from his appearance at his wife's appointment as governor-general, philosopher John Ralston Saul delivered a public lecture at Université de Montreal last Thursday.

Saul's talk was part of an international symposium entitled Education and a Shared Future: Issues for the Next Millennium. He spoke eloquently on the key role that literacy plays in educating the citizenry of a modern democracy.

As is his trademark, Saul peppered his talk with allusions to literary and historical figures. Given the venue, his references to LaFontaine, Baldwin and Polanyi were clearly familiar to the audience.

Saul attributes the loss of our collective memory in part to our neglect of the most important years of a person's education.

"We rush students through their first 12 years of school and fail to imbibe in them a sufficient appreciation for the kind of learning which engages the mind to develop ideas," laments Saul.

According to Saul, we then push post-secondary students through a sufficient number of degrees and whisk them off into the appropriate section of the working world. Society pushes onward to the preset 65th birthday retirement in mind. For Saul, the question is clear: Why not study longer and work longer, given that we are statistically likely to spend at least 20 years in retirement?

Saul took pains to underline that job contracts can hinder even the ideal, lengthy education in that they act as a kind of catch-22 for the employee. Once a graduate signs on to work for the government, for example, she is essentially selling the contents of her brain. She no longer can constructively participate in controversial

debates, as she is but a spokesperson for her employer and dares not contradict the given line, for fear of potential retribution. This is not to say that we live in a dictator-

thought-provoking substance.

"Our modern lives make it very difficult to read anything of substance. There is almost nowhere on earth that one can go



John Ralston Saul at U de M last Thursday

ship, but the definition of democracy changes under such circumstances. Those among us who are the elite of their field are effectively silenced by their sponsor.

"If democracy rules, then corporatism can thrive. It is when capitalism is in control that democracy suffers," says Saul.

The question is, for Saul, how to encourage constructive debate which is viable to its participants.

A problem related to the muffling of society's intellectual elites is that there are no noteworthy groups who can fill their shoes. Saul argues that it is a sign of the times that people are not reading as much or as often as perhaps they should. Time is parcelled out to such things as jobs and families. Society grows intellectually illiterate for lack of time to read works of

to be unreachable. As a result, our lives are divided into compartments that discourage any serious reading," says Saul.

Intellectual illiteracy aside, the perhaps more immediately alarming number of people who actually cannot read poses a very serious obstacle to any intention to elevate our society's ability to shape its future. Saul noted the importance of the first few years of education, but failed to propose a viable means by which teachers and parents alike could convince adolescents to see their schooling to completion.

What is Saul's answer to computer whiz kids who can barely put a sentence together, drop out of school and earn the same money they would have had to take out in loans in order to pursue a university education?

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Hyde Park

Cinéma du Parc hopes to be saved by sex

BY JENNIFER VO

The phoenix-like rise from the ashes of the Cinéma du Parc repertory theatre has been celebrated by many students glad to see the return of cheap local movies.

Parc used to supply a good mix of quirky art films and second-run hits, with the odd underground flick you just couldn't catch anywhere else.

Pleased by the thought of not having to pay \$10 to see a movie, I picked up a calendar. Upon opening the flyer, I was confronted by a picture of a topless woman in a questionable, sexual position. As I turned the pages, a close-up shot of a woman's breast greeted me. Looking closer at the schedule, I realized that many of their screenings have a lot to do with sex. In fact, one of the films showing is simply titled "Sex."

Now maybe it is just a happy coincidence that movies about having sex with 251 men in 10 hours, sexual obsession, lust, infidelity, teenage boys losing their virginity, mothers who enjoy sex toys, and an artist who exchanges drawings for money and sex, are all playing at the same theatre. The coincidence is possible. However, it seems much more likely that this is a calculated marketing strategy.

"I know," thought the advertiser who planned the new approach, "Since the art house crowd isn't loyal or rich enough to support us, we'll get the Neanderthals in with naked women!" It can't be denied that sex does sell. Witness the barrage of ads for designer clothing featuring naked people. Apparently, advertisements don't even have

to be remotely connected to the product as long as some toned abs or gravity defying breasts can be worked into the ad. So Cinéma du Parc is just jumping on an already crowded bandwagon. Maybe this is necessary to provide a repertory cinema in this area. Maybe they already consider better customer service, cleaner washrooms, and a lobby that doesn't smell like burning gym socks and decided a few smutty films would be a cheaper route. Perhaps they could consider some sort of guarantee about refunding passes should the theatre go under again. If they do go bankrupt once again, maybe Cinéma L'Amour will buy the place and make it a bona fide porn theatre without the artsy pretense. That way, at least there would not be any confusion about the types of movies that play there.

The Daily Archives

15 years ago: On September 13, 1984, Catherine Bainbridge reported in The Daily that four demonstrators had been arrested during the Montreal portions of Pope John Paul II's visit to Canada. "The demonstration was organized by La Coalition Contre La Visite Du Pape," Bainbridge wrote. "The arrests brought the total number of detentions in connection with the Pope's visit to 42. Constable Charles Poxon of the MUC police public relations department said, 'If someone has plans to discredit the Pope in some way, we can detain them for 24 hours without naming charges.'"

30 years ago: On September 22, 1969, The Daily published an editorial condemning Montreal Mayor Jean Drapeau for opening an expensive restaurant while

ignoring the plight of Montreal's poor. "Nearly 50% of the population of Montreal is in an economic category that is marginal or worse, and between trips to Europe, Uncle Jean opens a restaurant for the fat cats who can afford to shell out \$50 plus for a little evening on the town. We know whose mayor he is, don't we?"

45 years ago: On September 21, 1954, The Daily's Don Allen reported that McGill had become the first university to open a research station in the far north. "The pioneer research station [in Northern Quebec's Ungava region] is intended ultimately to serve both as a centre for work in all the important field sciences and as an advance base deep within the Canadian sub-arctic. It is believed to be the first such venture of its type in the western world."

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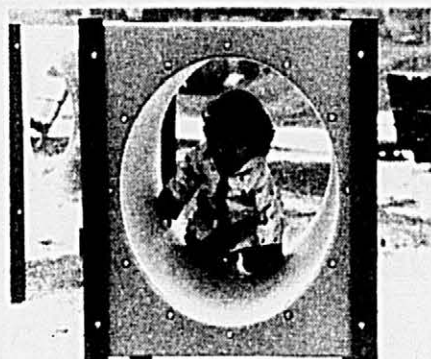
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The Bookshelf

Putting Your Money Where Your Metaphysics Are

Brit Lit takes a Vonnegutian turn

SCEPTICISM INC.

BY BO FOWLER

VINTAGE, 248 PAGES, \$15.95

REVIEWED BY BEN ERRETT

In Bo Fowler's vision of the twenty first century, the richest man in the world is George Milles Jr. Milles has designed the Infinity Chip, which, among other things, can turn shopping carts into artificially intelligent beings with a belief in God. The narrator of this book is one of these carts. The cart believes in the scientific method, the laws of gravity and commerce, that man is a positive rather than negative force in the universe, and that any product with the word 'new' on its packaging really [is] new. It believes in "coupons,

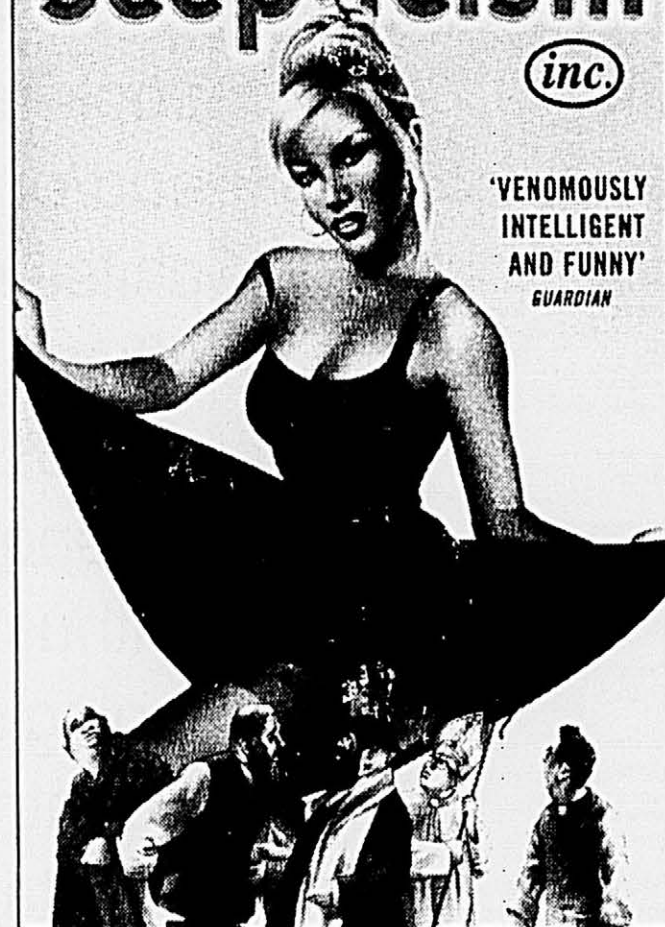
that says "I've put my money where my metaphysics are."

This is the main intrigue of Scepticism Inc. Other events of note in the novel include Pope John John's marketing of Vatican sanctioned prophylactics called Popedoms, the supermarket trolleys' scaling of Everest, and the Great Mania, in which all appliances with Infinity Chips go berserk and kill humans. The requisite love angle involves Sophia Alderson, a religious nut described as being as beautiful as the Tarantula Nebula viewed in infrared. She believes that, among many other things, swearing, looking at naked animals and eating toast earn you a one way ticket to hell. Naturally, Edgar falls madly in love with her.

Fowler's staccato writing style is reminiscent of Kurt Vonnegut, right down to the repetition of "Aloha" as "and so it goes"

Bo Fowler
Scepticism
inc.

'VENOMOUSLY
INTELLIGENT
AND FUNNY'
GUARDIAN



bulk buying and God."

The story begins when this narrating cart encounters one Edgar Milroy, a dedicated atheist who upon his left buttock has tattooed the following words by Nietzsche: "We invented the concept of 'purpose': in reality purpose is lacking." Milroy eventually surpasses Milles as the world's richest man by establishing the insanely successful Metaphysical Betting Shop, in which religious devotees may place wagers on their faith. No payback is promised; all the bettors receive is a receipt and a button

was used in Slaughterhouse Five. Like Vonnegut, he manages to tackle weighty issues with an irreverent tone, though you're never sure if he is going to be able to pull it off until the end. One noticeable typo has George Washington Carrer, instead of Carver, inventing peanut butter.

A clear image appears beneath the novel's wackiness. Religious beliefs matter very little in the face of human suffering. Or, as Fowler says in his author's note, the moral (in case you missed it), is that People matter more than the Truth.



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You Can't Run, You Can't Hide

The supposed online terrorist threat sets the stage for total loss of privacy

BY TAL PINCHEVSKY

Two weeks ago, an anonymous computer geek, by cracking various security codes, broke into Microsoft's online Hotmail server and immediately deleted 40 million Hotmail accounts. This large-scale attack on a corporate monolith, while relatively harmless, legitimizes a serious United States government inquiry into the whereabouts and actions of anyone maintaining both the hardware capability and the cyber-intellect to pull off such "attacks."

This particular incident is far from isolated and comes on the heels of a series of far more threatening hacker takedowns. A few months earlier, dis-

doing this are on the Internet.

The calm fabric of daily life will soon not be the only victim of such anarchic pranks. Clinton has voiced fear regarding the looming computer-based terrorist age. The world's major players rely heavily on digital technology and thus inevitably set themselves up for cyber sabotage on a colossal scale. As Clinton puts it, "where once our opponents relied exclusively on bombs and bullets, hostile powers can now turn a laptop computer into a potent weapon."

James Conolly of the McGill Computing agrees. "The Internet could

sored cyber cold war."

The US government is as usual developing defense tactics that it expects the rest of the world to adopt. It is working on means to protect "critical infrastructures" by instituting a central attack-monitoring system to upgrade computer security software and by creating a regulating body that recruits college students for federal information technology jobs in exchange for scholarships.

This US government plan, financed

include everything from where you go, to whom you speak with, to what

"Clipper Chip." Conolly has his reservations about whether this new legislation will solve the problem. "Keeping information on millions of people who aren't actu-

ally going to do anything just gives you a lot of data and won't really help you locate the source."

The United States government may yet

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HACKER

“ In a more malicious online attack, a college student in Sweden turned off the 911 emergency phone service in eleven Florida counties. ”

gruntled hackers took down the Federal Bureau of Investigation's own web site as a retaliatory tactic against recent US government raids on hackers. Computer users also recently bore witness to both the Melissa virus which disables email servers all over the world, and a new computer worm which invades and eats the computer files of leading corporations.

In a more malicious online attack, a college student in Sweden turned off the 911 emergency phone service in eleven Florida counties. Another sabotaged air traffic control at the Worcester, Massachusetts airport, while the First National Bank of Chicago reported a swift \$70 million withdrawal from their customers' accounts.

Richard A. Clarke, a National Security Council employee who is now spearheading President Bill Clinton's largely reactionary anti-cyberterrorism effort, explains the downfalls of the online world, "we don't have people in the countryside turning valves or switches anymore. It's all controlled by computer systems now and almost ever one of the systems I've described is subject to attack. They (hackers) can, if they know what they're doing, turn

out the lights. They can turn off the phones, stop water, stop natural gas, or better yet, cause explosions in the distribution systems." Most of the techniques for

be used by terrorists to attack relatively secure systems. It requires a lot of sophisticated knowledge and you would have to know exactly what you were doing. You don't have to travel to the United States to attack it and that's the whole advantage of it."

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Joe Six-Pack could sabotage major businesses, federal operations, as well as the fundamental functions of daily life. McGill Political Science Department Chair, Professor Hudson Meadwell expresses concern for a need to re-evaluate the people's right to privacy. "One of the reasons people have argued over this for years is the access to private information. It will force us to rethink issues of access to information. The United States

Critical Infrastructure Assurance Office, which plans to reassure corporate representatives by amending laws on antitrust, corporate liability for personal data, trade secrets, and freedom of information, among other things.

These are legitimate grounds for paranoia. Your bank, your phone company and your insurance carriers, all of whom have access to a number of details of your private life, will

by a \$1.5 billion budget, involves a

fiendishly complicated state apparatus

the responsibility of which is to "prepare

and prevent, detect and respond." This

means linking up advanced security sys-

tems for monitoring and surveillance.

The brain of this program is CIAO, the

lion by 2001.

The interpretation of these methods as

anticipatory fails to hold much water in

light of other anti-hacker actions under-

taken by the Clinton regime since 1993. It

was in 1993 that Clinton and Gore intro-

duced the "Clipper Chip" to give law

enforcement agencies a key to decoding

Internet texts. This system, however, over-

looked the fact that businesses use reliable

encryption in order to protect trade secrets

and credit card. With this in mind, private

enterprise forged an unlikely alliance with

civil-liberties activists, and persuaded the

United States Congress to reject the

take liberties with its fourth amendment. To believe otherwise is as naive as speculating that Barry White launched his career at the Grand Ole Opry. Federal agents secretly read citizens' first-class mail years before it was made legal in 1917. The FBI is renowned not for its famed judicial exploits, but for the illegal means that director J. Edgar Hoover used in collecting evidence and planting bugs in the homes of civil rights activists.

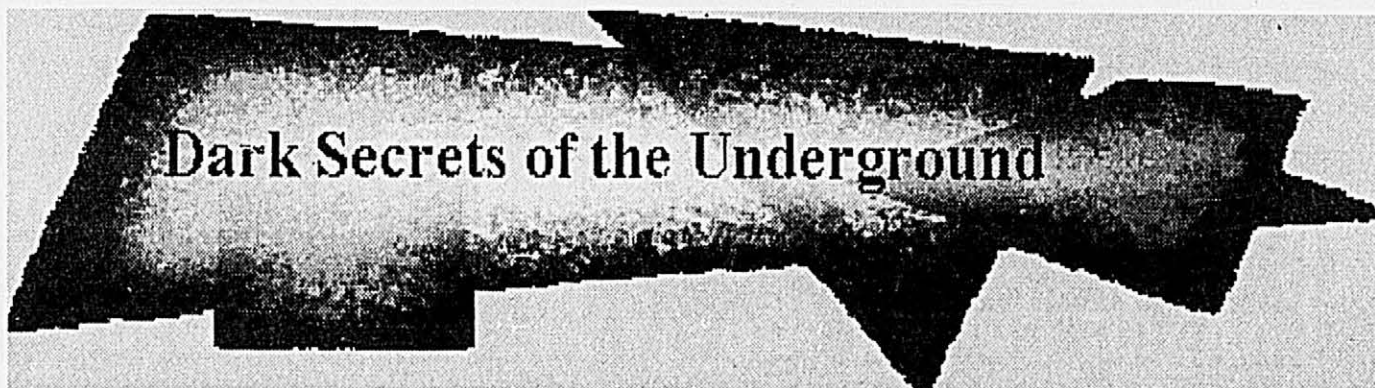
One may predict that should the US make these moves, numerous other nations, including Canada, would not only consider similar legislation but, more likely than not, adopt it. This is, more than anything, an indication of the awesome clout the United States wields on the international scene. Meadwell points out that "if a smaller state had considered this legislation, it wouldn't have been a big deal, but because it is the United States, the economic power of the world, it definitely sets a precedent."

The irony in this likelihood of sheep behaviour is that the RCMP has reported that the incidence of hacker crime, while not being entirely nonexistent, is a source of primary concern neither for Canadian police nor Canadian politicians.

Conspiracy theorists have long suspected that privacy laws serve simply to maintain order among constituents rather than to protect their interests.

In that light, the implementation of such mechanisms as CIAO simply ensures that people will accept government monitoring as part and parcel to their lives. While it might

seem premature to arouse paranoia over the Big Brother threat, time and persistent computer-related criminal activity will contribute to these growing concerns.



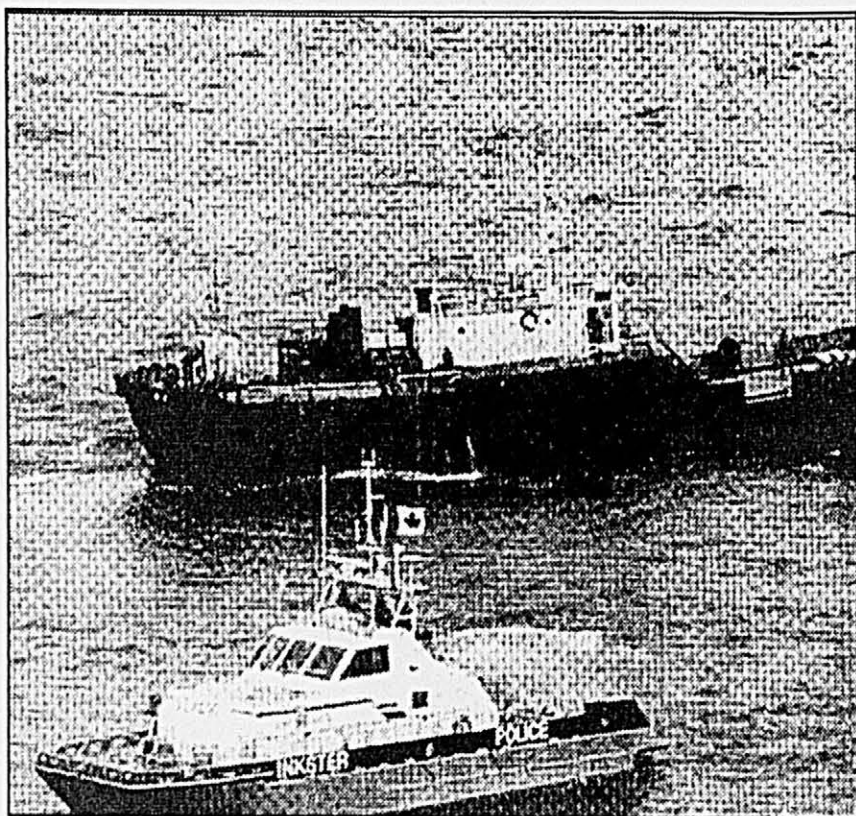
government, identifying a viable terrorist threat through this medium of communication, have lain down the foundation for a comprehensive state-spon-

come under the jurisdiction of a regulating body. The information that will be handed over to the authorities through these amendments will

and credit card. With this in mind, private enterprise forged an unlikely alliance with civil-liberties activists, and persuaded the United States Congress to reject the

Should They Stay or Should They Go Now?

Canada Remains Confused About Chinese Migrant Crisis.



One of the several ships bringing Chinese migrants to BC.

BY SEAN CARRIE

The arrival of five boatloads bursting at the seams with Chinese immigrants over the last number of weeks, and the immigrants' subsequent application for refugee status, has given rise to a heated debate.

The impression that the Chinese, from Fujian Province in the South, are jumping the refugee queue has angered many Canadians. Others maintain that all are welcome, and point to China's dubious human rights record as a reason for allowing the migrants to stay. The arrivals of three additional boatloads on August 11th, August 31st, and September 10th, have only helped fuel the fire. Many have begun to question the validity of Canada's immigration laws in the face of what they fear may be a flood of Chinese refugees.

The Navy and Coast Guard admit that these three ships may not have been the only ones to arrive, although they are the only ones that have been caught so far. The vast reach of the BC coast and a fairly small patrol force are cited as the reason many immigrant ships may have slipped through.

"We've only now found out that they're

coming", said John Ryan, a Toronto Immigration Counsel most of whose clients are Mainland Chinese. "The scope of this is just becoming known."

Ryan's firm aids immigrants in obtaining valid visas or obtaining special permission from the government to enter the country. The process is both lengthy and costly, which is one of the reasons why the boat people chose the quick, illegal, route into Canada.

"Gangs have been operating here for a number of years", Ryan noted, "and human smuggling is a major money-maker for them." He said that in Chinese society there are "a lot of push and pull factors which attract an individual to seek their fame and fortune overseas. A lot of them are (coming) for education and to expand their horizons."

Given that there will always be a flow of

immigrants, Ryan advocated turning illegal immigrants into legal ones, by facilitating the immigration process. "We have to make (the process) simpler, less expensive, and much faster, so that it's easier to arrive."

A Supreme Court ruling ten years ago called for the treatment of all people on Canadian soil in a manner consistent with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. This would include giving the Chinese migrants the right to state their case. Claims that

"In my view, economic refugees have less of a claim (than other types of refugees). Canada should listen to claims from bona fide refugees, those that can't make it on the boat."

their having arrived illegally should deny them that right "don't stand up," said Janet Dench of the Canadian Counsel for Refugees.

"Some refugees are forced to come illegally in order to seek refuge. The Geneva

Convention has a clause which says that entrance to a country (on refugee grounds) must not be penalized," said Dench.

HUMAN SMUGGLING RINGS

Many, if not all, of the immigrants obtained their passage to Canada through organized crime. Use of gang-run human smuggling rings to enter Canada is on the rise, especially among Mainland Chinese. Most Mainlanders are not politically or financially capable of applying for immigration to Canada through the normal channels, and so must travel the illegal route. Upon arriving in Canada they are effectively indentured to these groups (to the tune of US\$30,000, according to some) and have to buy back their freedom through work as prostitutes or labourers.

Although all of the refugees are required to appear in court for a hearing process, a number of individuals have failed to appear for hearings in Vancouver, further complicating the issue. Many fear that threats directed at the refugees by Vancouver-based Asian gangs may have been carried out, and the missing migrants were kidnapped into slavery or killed. Police, however, suspect that they were contacted by their smugglers and are on their way to Toronto or New York.

A recent Angus Reid Poll showed that Canadians were evenly split on whether or not the new arrivals should be immediately deported or allowed to enter the refugee application process. However, Westerners were more likely to favour immediate deportation than their Central and Eastern compatriots: some 56 percent of British Columbians and Albertans rejected the idea of offering the migrants refugee status. Residents of the Atlantic provinces were the most likely to welcome the Chinese, as only 38 percent favoured deportation.

"I think this reflects how the issue has been cast by politicians and the media itself," Dench said. "It's been really over-dramatized and hyped. She blamed "virulent coverage by the BC media" which is a reflection of "racial and ethnic tensions which have existed for some time." But added that "British Columbia has reacted so dramatically partly because (for them)

it's closest to home."

But for Ryan, the answer to the problem is obvious. "I support sending them (the refugees) back because they're not genuine refugees," he said decisively. "In my view, economic refugees have less of a claim (than other types of refugees). Canada should listen to claims from bona fide refugees, those that can't make it on the boat."

DUE PROCESS

"People are entitled to due process", says Moy Tam of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation. She believes ignorance of the issues, as well as some underlying biases, are responsible for the reaction. "The scale is unwarranted. Many refugees are not able to arrive legally, and cannot obtain travel documents." This, she contended, is why the system allows people who arrive in this manner to go through the process. Those who say the government is being soft are not aware of way the system works.

Some Chinese students at McGill are particularly incensed by what they perceive as the special treatment afforded the

immigrants by authorities. Leo Chau of the McGill Chinese Students Society bemoaned the fact that the new arrivals are following an "illegal path" to settle here. He asserts that the refugee claims are invalid, "because they applied for economic refugee status, but spent \$40,000 to get here." He did remark that "they probably don't know that this (the route they took to claiming refugee status) is illegal." Joe Lui, who immigrated to Canada from Hong Kong, added that "we paid money to arrive legally." Moy Tam said that many recent immigrants are "frustrated with the system." She explained that they view the refugee process as a way of bypassing the regular immigration process. It is only with the granting of refugee status that the Chinese may then begin the same process of immigration undertaken by other immigrants.

"Because we enjoy certain freedoms in Canada, we can't even envision what they (the Chinese) have gone through to get here," said Tam. Both she and Janet Dench strongly condemn those who jump to conclusions regarding the validity of the migrants' claims. "The process is there to sort out who's a refugee and who's not," said Dench. "Refugee claimants have the right to state their case."

Deconstructing the Hype

Talking ideology, activism and music with *The Vendettas*

BY STEPHEN MCLEOD

At 10:30 Thursday morning, I stroll up The Main to Croissant Royale, where I'm supposed to meet Paul A. Cargnello, the scruffy kid behind the lyrics, music, voice, guitar, image, and ideology of the Vendettas.

I don't expect that I'm going to like this guy.

Having read the band's promotional manifesto, rife with critics' references to his mantra of "Rock, Reggae, and Revolution", I've convinced myself that this young frontman is filling the air with sophomoric socialist hype. That he is just a self-indulgent, Danko Jones

thing to show - this is what we're doing; this is our direction." But it is also part of a package, he concedes, engineered for business purposes. "Sure - these big labels see that and say 'this'll sell', and they don't care that the revolution is against them..." He fidgets around in his chair a bit; "This muffin is shit - I should've gotten a chocolate croissant."

Speaking of major labels, with which the boys are starting to deal on a serious level: "I'm looking for the biggest contract I can find - I'm going to Atlantic; I'm going to Sony (which, in fact, the band recently turned down) - I want whatever's going to make us



type, contriving a conspicuously salable image out of egocentric hyperbole & showmanship.

Yet musically, I haven't heard such an originally complex & interesting fusion of sound come from an outfit so young since Gorp (a teenage Sonic Unyon band circa '94) blew my silly young mind. However, I haven't always been listening.

I show up a few minutes before he does (we're both early), and pull up at a table by the front window. When he wheels in, we seem to instantly recognize each other. After he grabs a muffin & chats with Duncan Blair (who arrived at the same time as me and sat there, ironically, at a table adjacent to mine), we get underway. "He's sorta my manager," he says, and adds somewhat sheepishly, "I guess I thought this interview was supposed to be later than it was."

I ask straight off about this 'Rock, Reggae, and Revolution' business.

"It started like this," he begins, "we were being criticized quite a bit as having 'no direction', since all the sounds we were making - rock, blues, reggae, and so on - kinda blended together to create an indistinguishable sound. So I decided to latch onto that

the most famous." We knock this idea around for a while - the band is not into the idea of a big corporate deal for the cash, (though he fully expects to become a millionaire), but for the distribution - to spread the word. And Cargnello is definitely both earnest & immodest on the topic of his role in the revolution: "I'm not an individual anymore, you know - I'm a movement; an ideology..."

But I want to know about the ideologies that influence him - his stand: "You know, I get the most resistance from white males; they see me at a show and say 'hey, you're one of us - just what the hell are you doing?' But you know, I'm not one of them. We're for the working class and the oppressed... we're all women's rights and native rights, you know? And, we're for all the squeegee kids out there who're getting fined, you know, or being shipped out to Verdun..." And then he murmurs in a melancholy tone, "It's not fair..."

I agree, and change the topic to the big deal everyone makes of the band's age: "I think that happens because we've been around for a while now - 5 years - I mean,

(continued on page 12)

Bigger, Longer, and

The Scrappy Bitch Tour

comes to town

BY Yael Friedman

The three 'anti-divas' who headline this tour began their scrappiness three years ago when they combined their raw singer/songwriter talents and performed in front of a wide array of audiences across Canada.

Kinnie Starr, Oh Susanna (Susanna Ungerleider) and Veda Hille are three Canadian women (actually, Ungerleider is originally from the States but that subtle difference does not seem to be mentioned often) whose individual, autonomous musical talents have gained them widespread acclaim. This recognition comes not only from across the wide expanse of Canada but also from Europe and South of the border where they first toured together last year. It is their striking uniqueness and solid personalities that makes them appealing to so many different people.

Oh Susanna, the slightly American member who sprang roots in Vancouver and now lives in Toronto has recently come out with a new CD entitled *Johnstown*. In this folksy, substantial and strong album, she tells the story of the disaster of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where in 1889 the flooding of a dam caused the deaths of over two thousand people. The historical content of her music, sung in her surprisingly sweet and melodious voice, adds a depth to her music that Jewel is surely envious of. She has performed with an eclectic mix of musicians such as Basil

Donovan (Blue Rodeo), Bob Egan (Wilco), and Joel Andersen (The Skydiggers) and has had the help of producer Peter Moore of the Cowboy Junkies.

Ungerleider began performing out West where she got some help getting started from long-time friend and fellow scrappy bitch, Veda Hille. Hille, whose latest CD, *You Do Not Live In This World Alone*, is due out in a couple of weeks and she will surely devote much of her playing time on Thursday to her new tracks. She also hinted that the audience might get to hear a Morrissey cover she has been working on lately and which she recently played at the Liss Ard festival in Ireland to the great satisfaction of the audience. There she had the chance to perform with none other than Lou Reed, whom she describes as a "grumpy, old man" and Nick Cave, "a true gentleman." Besides appearing with Kinnie Starr and fellow Vancouverite Oh Susanna, her own band will be performing next month at Café Campus.

Hille and Ungerleider joined ranks with the perhaps most well known scrappy bitch, Kinnie Starr, in 1996. Hille and Ungerleider were approached in Toronto and asked whether their purported performance with Starr was true. It was not; at least not yet. That however, got the wheels turning, motivating them to get in touch with Starr and make the circulating rumors true.

To try and tap into the 'collective sub-

conscious' of these women, the Daily recently interviewed the three. (In three separate interviews)

Daily: Tell me about your involvement with the Scrappy Bitches.

Ungerleider: Oh, I'm the boss for sure. Veda and I exchange the boss position. There's slave and master stuff going on. Actually the roles always flip; we have a rotating bill and the whole tour is very egalitarian. We all think we are the bosses and that's where the scrappiness comes in.

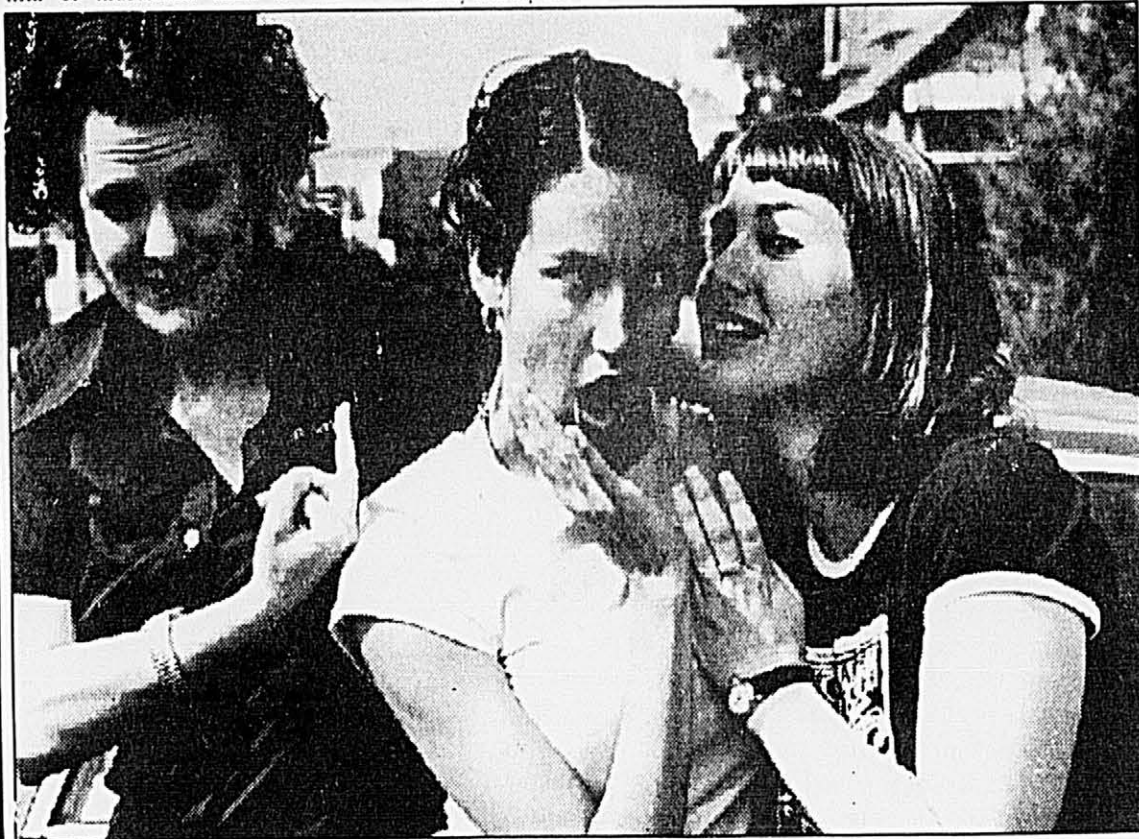
Daily: Is the tour a political platform in any way?

Ungerleider: Veda always says that if you 'tell the truth' in your music, whatever you are and if you are true to your act then it is essentially political. Since we are using our democratic right of free speech then it is basically political; political expression through music. But other than that, no. We just like to challenge people through what we sing about; make them think. The egalitarian quality of the tour, it being communal rather than the traditional headliner, is a statement in itself.

Starr: No it isn't really political. I guess when you put women together it kind of has to be. When it first started, maybe. But now we just enjoy playing together and don't think about it.

Daily: Now for the inevitable loaded question: What do you think of Lilith Fair?

Ungerleider: Nice idea but very hard to execute in a way that would make every-



The Scrappy Bitch Tour: (from left) Veda Hille, Kinnie Starr, Oh Susanna

Uncut



body happy. It seems to have become just another large, corporately funded festival like Lollapalooza was. I mean everyone in the mainstream needs to be educated, but it still is mainstream. Independent music didn't get its fair share - women who aren't famous have a very hard time getting in.

Starr: I think it's great to see women perform but not if they're not good. Especially the Dixie Chicks - I had never even heard of them and could not understand why the audience was into this boring pop-country music. The fair was also extremely crowded which I didn't like at all and the amount of waste was phenomenal.

Daily (to Starr): So, why are you 'sassy'?

Starr (laughing): Well, both of my parents are. My mother is Irish and my father is half-Indian so it's a pretty sassy combination. I also really like plaid, flannel underwear and made great use of American outlet shopping when I bought six more pairs.

Daily: What is this tour mainly about?

Ungerleider: Above all, we want it to be fun and to lighten things up for ourselves. We talk about very serious things in our music but we want to be able to have a sense of humor about it. That's why it's called "scrappy bitch."

Starr, Hille, and Ungerleider, although interviewed separately, expressed very similar ideas about the purpose of their tour. Primarily, it just gives them a chance to hang out for three weeks, have a lot of fun, and give their audiences a great show in the process.

Their tour kicks off this Thursday (September 16) at Cabaret Music Hall (2111 St-Laurent).



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Open Studio at Galerie VAV

Concordia Fine Arts Department student friendly

BY MARGOT BERRILL

To an uninformed viewer, Galerie VAV looks like many other professional art galleries. It has the good lighting and mobile walls necessary for accommodating the artists displaying uplifting and meaningful work.

Located in the Visual Arts Building at Concordia University, Galerie VAV concentrates on displaying student works. In addition, Galerie VAV is a student run, non-profit organization. Julie Keller, co-director of Galerie VAV, emphasizes that the gallery allows Concordia students a first chance to exhibit work in a professional setting. Throughout the gallery, students benefit from the opportunities the space offers for exhibition, while also learning a great deal about organizing and running a gallery. While it is currently run by two students appointed annually, Keller, and co-director Michelle Bush are working towards having a full time director and a board of directors (composed of students) to oversee events.

Keer Tanchak, a third year studio arts student at Concordia, will be exhibiting her work until September 18 with fellow artist Frederique Guichard in a show simply called Paintings.

I met with Tanchak recently to talk about her work and the importance of spaces such as Galerie VAV. While Tanchak has, in the past, exhibited her work in group exhibitions as well as at Blizzarts, this is her first major exhi-

bition. Tanchak's portion of the show, which is called Views, consists of numerous landscape paintings, all of which are variations of the view of Mt. Royal seen from her apartment.

"I like nature and architecture- it's a combination that pleases me." Views has turned into a year-long project for Tanchak, and shows no sign of slowing down. Tanchak's technique of repetition of subject matter has allowed her discovery and focus on what's really important to her: she realizes the importance of technique in the creative process. "I've become infatuated with different things at different times, especially the composition, what I put in and what I take out of it." I think of it [the scene and the painting] as a play or book, emphasizing certain characters on different days. Sometimes the play is happy, sometimes it's sad."

For Tanchak one of the most important things about exhibiting at Galerie VAV is the feedback she will get from her peers, and professors. She voiced an uncertainty that many artists feel towards feedback and criticism, but focused on the venue itself as a safe place for emerging artists. As Tanchak puts it, "it's a comfortable space to start worrying about the real problems of an exhibition."

In many art communities, readily available space does not exist for students. Galerie VAV is a space where as artists, students can learn the process behind the

exhibition and eventually face the toughest critics of all, the public. This is why Galerie VAV is unusual. The gallery is right inside the doors of the Visual Arts Building, which gives it automatic exposure and high attendance. For Concordia students, the goal of showing their work in Galerie VAV is a feasible one from the very first day of classes. This assurance can only benefit students, as it gives both confidence and provides experience to those who seek to enter the art world. "It's good for students to see work by other students," says Tanchak "they can find some inspiration in (it)."

While Tanchak has come across some obstacles in the organization of paintings, she's confident that it's all worthwhile, "I've learned more in the last few weeks than I have in a long time, and I feel comfortable now organizing a show, it's not that complicated."

Concordia University should be applauded for offering this space to its students. The studio art department helps students learn how to perfect their techniques, but Galerie VAV teaches them how to apply their talents and gain knowledge about the field.

Paintings by Frederique Guichard and Keer Tanchak opens September 12th and continues to the 18th at the Galerie VAV, 1395 Rene-Levesque O. The Vernissage is Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 7:00 PM.

Rocking Out for Amnesty

(continued from page 10)

when we were 15, we grew beards and played in the Peel Pub and Cafe Campus... so we're not neophytes anymore - we're full-blown - but we're at the neophyte age, and that's why people are surprised..." He agrees with my hunch that what most 20 year-olds are thinking and doing is shit, so it is also strange and impressive to hear their creatively intelligent sound, and especially of their fervent social conscience and activism. "I'm really disappointed in my generation", he says.

Structurally, the band seems to be tightening. They again have a regular drummer, Chris Leroux, of whom Paul says, "he just deserves so much better than us", and "he makes us sound huge again, just like Diego (the original drummer) did..." "And of course you know Adam - he's got these great wall-of-sound basslines - they're just phat". They've also got Rod Shearer producing their new album. "We're really lucky to be working with Rod", Paul emphasizes - "I mean, he's got a gold record on his wall (for his work with Bran Van 3000)... We've also got all kinds

of help from people that just really care about us - Diego still helps out, and Duncan... my brother... and my girlfriend Jessie... We're really lucky", he repeats in this reflective tone.

Their next album, which, Paul assures me, will fill out the hype of the mantra, should be out around January.

After a couple hours of raving, we have to break it up, and surprise - I like this guy. He's intelligent, articulate, and sensible, and all his energies are sincerely directed, not toward self-glorification and sales, but rather, (his arrogance & hyperbole notwithstanding), toward ideals of egalitarianism and an equitable economic infrastructure... Oh! And music. Music that kicks some ass now, and will kick more ass soon.

Now: The Vendettas play an Amnesty International benefit on September 17th at Studio St-Laurent (2109 St-Laurent) with The Snitches and The Riddlers. This is a call to the disaffected and disenfranchised to come see a show that goes against the status quo. In Paul's words: "Why raise money for a bar when you can do it for a benefit?"

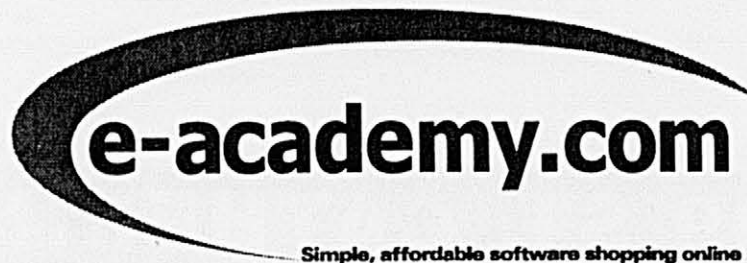
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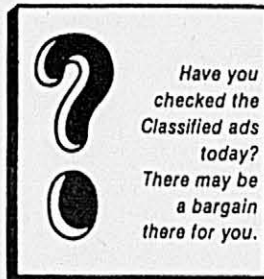
BY COLIN GEORGE

It's about this time of year that a trip out to Ikea to furnish the new apartment seems like a good idea. Add this to the fact that Loblaws and their delicious President's Choice products are nearly impossible to reach by mass transit, and the possibility of getting a car seems most appealing. However, Montreal's sadistic parking cops and the high costs of rentals make it hard to get behind the wheel with your wallet relatively intact. That's where CommunAuto comes in.

A concept becoming popular in cities across Canada, CommunAuto is a car-sharing service dedicated to "rational car use." All it takes to start is a \$500 fully-refundable membership charge, and a yearly fee. Then, for nominal charges per hour and kilometer, you could have access to a well-maintained set of wheels, conveniently located, and available 24 hours a day. All additional expenses are covered, including parking, insurance, accessories, even gas. However, if you're looking for a getaway car for that heist you've been planning, you should be warned that there is a background check.

Those of you who've broken into a cold sweat and are hyperventilating, frantically worried about only using the car on weekends and paying the same rate as some old guy who wants to visit every baseball stadium in North America before he dies, can relax. There are variable rates available depending on your usage, varying from \$35 for a weekly grocery run to \$350 for extended travelling. There is even a discount package for couples or roommates to share an account.

If you are ready to bid the hassles and woes of car rental and the riding the metro farewell, get two photocopies of your driver's license, a copy of your accident report, your driving record, two 3 X 3.5cm pictures, and your chequebook (cash isn't accepted), and call CommunAuto at 843-4825.



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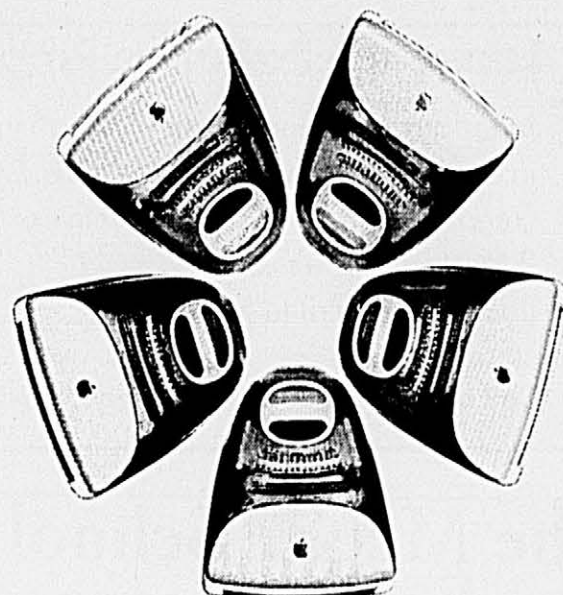
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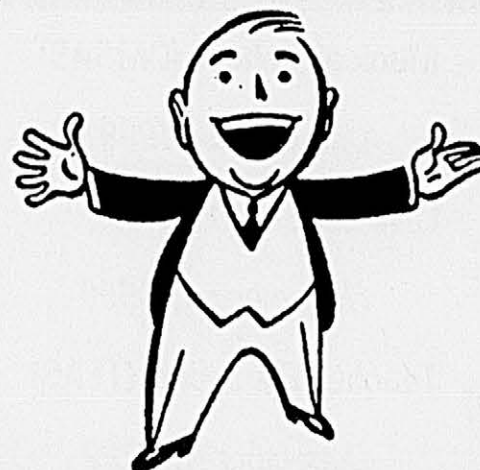
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Admission: Free. Everyone welcome.

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Medical School (OMSAS)

October 15, 1999

Law School (OLSAS)

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...endnotes

A STRAIN ON THE BRAIN DRAIN?

One of the many issues the National Post has been trumpeting since its inception less than a year ago has been the so-called brain drain. A trend that is supported more by anecdote than fact, this emigration of Canada's highly skilled workers and university graduates to the States is supposedly yet another sign of the crumbling of our nation's foundations. All Canada will be, the alarmist theory goes, is a mediocre nation acting as a farm team to the U.S. Given this stance, what would the predicted reaction be when a prominent intellectual with an equally sophisticated husband is appointed to the highest ceremonial office in the land? One might expect congratulations to the PM for sending out the message that Canada honours its brain power. Of course, the Post took a different approach. Last Thursday's "Activists to Move into Rideau Hall" headline conjures up an image of our friends at QPIRG camped out on the lawn of the Governor General's estate. Add this to the patronizing attitude towards Ms. Clarkson and the smarmy comment about "inconvenient ideological baggage" in the lead editorial, and one wonders exactly what kind of brain the Post is so concerned about. -Ben Errett

YELLOW PERIL REDUX

The ongoing crisis of Chinese migrants landing on B.C.'s shores has forced Canadians to take some uncomfortable stands on the matter. We like to think of ourselves as a welcoming country in which the persecuted can take refuge. However, we have processes for dealing with such claims, and they are

among the most lax of any nation on earth. The most difficult part about not accepting the migrants with open arms is the strange bedfellows this position entails. Sure, you may realize that by allowing the Chinese entrance to our country, we are allowing the criminals who coordinate their passage to continue their extortion. But what about the Vancouver newspaper that ran a full-page headline that screamed "GO HOME!" on the day the migrants arrived? This seems to be giving xenophobes a perfect opportunity to air their race-baiting opinions. Whatever the outcome of the situation, it must be made clear that Canada is still open to all peoples of the world, and that such subtle racism has no place in our public discourse. -BE

FRANCOFOLLIES

It seems like Canada is perpetually forced to decide whether we want to help other countries on the road to democra-

cy or simply take their money and let the human rights abuses continue. While this is a thorny issue, surely we can agree both economically and morally that there's no need to waste money on bloodthirsty dictators. This philosophy would mean that we don't waste money chauffeuring visiting dictators around Moncton during the Francophonie summit and making them feel warm and fuzzy about their partnership in an (until recently, politically useless) organization. Yes, it is important to engage non-democratic nations in international affairs in order to encourage them to renovate their systems of government, but is it legitimate to spend an approximated 14 million dollars on the dictators' security and motorcades? Take the money spent on the human rights abusers' transportation and invest it in constructive talks with their staff. Surely we could request that such bullies as Laurent Kabila foot the bills for a cab? -Celine Heinbecker



Time to allow private care, former health minister says

Ending restrictions would ease pressure: Quebec's Contingency

By Frances K. Lee
OTTAWA - Canada's health minister, Allan Rock, has said that the "end of the road" for the current health care system is near. He says that the system is "not sustainable" and that a "fundamental restructuring" is needed. He says that the government is "committed to a long-term plan" to reform the health care system.



ACTIVISTS TO MOVE INTO RIDEAU HALL

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ELECTION



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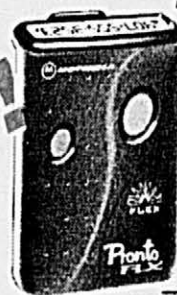
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